

Mr. DINGELL, Michigan

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO MILITARY COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 672(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Pub. L. 112-239), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following individuals on the part of the House to the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission:

Mr. Dov S. Zakheim, Silver Spring, Maryland

Mr. Michael R. Higgins, Washington, D.C.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 17, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to section 4(c) of House Resolution 5, 113th Congress, I am pleased to re-appoint The Honorable James P. McGovern of Massachusetts as Co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. BENTON MARKS

(Mr. ROKITA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional Hoosier couple, Mr. Benton and Mrs. Sandi Marks, who are being honored with the 2013 HAI-Life Distinguished Service Award by the Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis.

Mr. Marks has served as president of both the Hasten Hebrew Academy and the Bureau of Jewish Education, as Jewish Federation campaign chair and president, and as chairman of the State of Israel Bonds. He has also served as a member of the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission, and has volunteered with numerous civic and professional organizations.

Mrs. Marks has devoted her life to education, serving on the Hasten Hebrew Academy Education Committee and as a board member of the school. She recently retired from Washington Township Schools but continues to serve the district and Indiana as a school psychologist. She is also a trust-

ed friend and confidante of mine on education issues in my capacity as chairman of the subcommittee on K-12 education.

Mr. and Mrs. Marks are wonderful entrepreneurs, excellent philanthropists, and most of all, friends. I am honored to know them, even since my days as Indiana Secretary of State, and I know they will continue to serve as leaders in our Indiana community for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING MATTHEW MADDOX

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to follow the gentleman from Indiana, the subcommittee chairman of K-12, because I'm going to recognize a leader in our K-12 community in Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matthew Maddox for being named the VFW National Citizenship Education Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Matthew is a fifth-grade teacher at Columbus Elementary School in Edwardsville, Illinois, and he was selected as the Teacher of the Year from among 60,000 other teachers for his dedication to education, innovative teaching style, and resource development.

In the classroom, Matthew has made it a commitment to recognize the sacrifices made by our Nation's veterans by regularly inviting veterans to visit and share their stories to help make history much more relevant to his students.

In addition to being an educator, Matthew has proudly served our country in the Illinois National Guard's 445th Chemical Company since July 2011, and has enrolled in officer training school at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois.

Far too often, our Nation's educators do not deserve the credit and recognition they deserve. So I am proud to stand here today to congratulate Matthew Maddox for the work he does in the classroom, and also to thank him for his service to our country.

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HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF OUR NATION'S VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I recently visited the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home in Bellevue. It's a lovely place that is well-designed to care for those who have served in the protection of our country. I had a nice

visit, talking with many of the veterans there, each with their own unique stories of service to our Nation.

A conversation, though, with one man in particular, Mr. Speaker, has stuck with me ever since. Now in his nineties, Don McBride sat quietly as I was speaking to the entire group. But as I was leaving, I went over to him to thank him for his commendable service to our Nation; but as soon as I got those words out, Don stopped me.

You see, Don has a very interesting story. As I understand it, he did not directly enlist in the United States military. It was a unique situation. Don was a pilot with Pan Am Airlines, and during World War II, he helped the war effort by flying planes into China. During World War II, China was our ally.

In all, Don flew 524 missions. He had to put a few planes down a couple of times because they were shot so badly, but he didn't stop. He and his fellow pilots did whatever was needed for the war effort, whether it was engaging Japanese aircraft or delivering aid to remote places in that rough terrain.

For his service, Don was awarded the Presidential Citation, four Bronze Stars, the Air Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the China Service Medal. He didn't want to tell me all this. He was quite reserved about it, but his nurse encouraged him to share his story.

But, again, as I went to thank him, Don stopped me and he said this, Mr. Speaker. He said: We don't need any thanks. Every man here did it because he wanted to, because it was necessary. I don't know of anybody who has ever been sorry for serving.

Mr. Speaker, it is this spirit of selflessness that lives on in so many of our veterans and the military men and women who are serving our Nation today. They gave, and continue to give, for one simple reason: it is necessary and it is their duty.

On Memorial Day, this coming Monday, we will gather for an occasion that is both solemn and joyful. We honor those who gave everything in service to their countrymen. The formal remembrance of fallen heroes mixes feelings of both sorrow and pride. That a person would lay down his life for his friends, for another, is the noblest of human ideals. That we would unite in gratitude to reflect on the sacrifices of those who have gone before us is one of the greatest human expressions.

And for those who are veterans, Mr. Speaker, who have stood next to persons who have given their all, perhaps holding them as they died, watching helplessly as war consumed another innocent life, their living presence, Mr. Speaker, the living presence of our veterans today is an honor to those who did not come home.

Communal remembrance is a long-standing human tradition. When we focus our remembrance on the war veterans who have sacrificed for us, the act is particularly meaningful and appropriate.